

ZUKER

Application No.: 09/492,028

Page 2

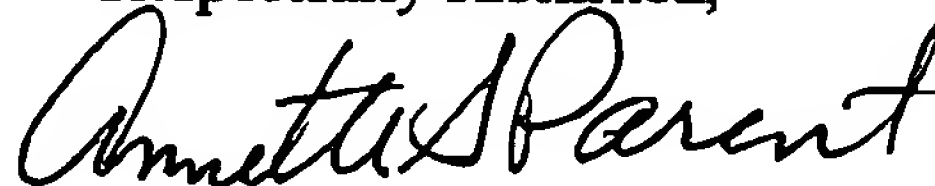
PATENT**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claim 6 was rejected as allegedly indefinite, as the Examiner stated that it was unclear whether open or closed term language is intended. Applicants respectfully note that the claim includes open language. The claim recites a Markush group with two members: (1) a G-protein alpha subunit; or (2) a G protein comprising a G-protein alpha subunit. Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that G-proteins have three subunits, alpha, beta, and gamma. Thus, the Markush group encompasses either an alpha subunit alone, or an alpha subunit that is part of a G-protein. Therefore, Applicants used the term comprising to describe a G protein "comprising" a G protein alpha subunit. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions regarding Applicant's response, or if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite consideration of this matter in any way, please call the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Annette S. Parent
Reg. No. 42,058

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (415) 576-0200
Fax: (415) 576-0300
SF 1296760 v1